

## CALIFORNIA WING PARTICIPATED IN HOMELAND SECURITY MISSION "GOLDEN GUARDIAN 2005"

On 15 November 2005, California Wing Civil Air Patrol members from Palo Alto Squadron 10, San Jose Squadron 80 and Oakland Squadron 188 of Group 2 and an aircrew from Group 4 participated in the California state Office of Emergency Services homeland security exercise "Golden Guardian 2005". The exercise simulated response by over 80 state and local agencies to terrorist bombings in Sacramento and in Oakland.

Three corporate aircraft and 19 Civil Air Patrol members operated from a command post at Hayward Airport. Members used the opportunity to accomplish training in all aspects of the operation. CAP corporate aircraft flew 11.3 hours in 9 sorties;

CAP crews completed 6 mission tasks assigned by the Golden Gate Emergency Response Center. The first task was an early morning flight by a Santa Maria-based Cessna 182 to transport a "bomb-sniffing" dog and his handler from San Luis Obispo to Sacramento. LTC Ted Suchecki was pilot-in-command.

A command post at the air National Guard base in Hayward was set up and operated by a command and support staff from San Jose Squadron 80 and Oakland Squadron 188. A Cessna 206 from San Jose Squadron 80 (Lt Robin Easton PIC) and a Cessna 182 from Palo Alto Squadron 10, equipped for ARI air-to-ground image transmission, (Lt Tony Stieber PIC) operated from the Hayward base. The Cessna 182 aircraft with an all-Squadron 10 crew, flew highway reconnaissance and aerial damage assessment and digital photography sorties at Oakland sites, including air-to-ground transmission of ARI images via CAP radio. The Cessna 206 with a joint Squadron 80-Squadron 188 crew, flew an aerial reconnaissance flight with photography of transportation facilities, including 80 miles of railroad.

Digital photography included 84 images at 25 sites; 9 images were transmitted to Hayward base.

A large amount of training was accomplished, and everyone involved declared that they had learned something. Maj Roger Glenn, Squadron 188, was instrumental in inserting CAP tasks into the mission plan; he also arranged for use of the Hayward facilities of Pacific Region headquarters and Squadron 18. CAP Incident Commander LTC Donald Towse declared, "I salute all of them for a job well done."

Jim Fitzpatrick, superintendent of emergency services, California State Parks said, "The handler and dog performed a search of the State Operations Center for personal explosive devices and was very well received. This was a significant aspect of our Department's participation in the 2005 Golden Guardian Exercise."